



WINTER 2019

ST. DUNSTAN CHRONICLE

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Photo: Brian Fox-Schmidt

“Man’s inhumanity to man.” This phrase comes to mind as we watch the news, and hear about the horrible things, large and small, that humans are doing to each other and to fellow living beings - from the bombing of churches in Sri Lanka, to the abandonment of kittens in a refuse bin. It’s enough to make a person depressed and discouraged about the state of the world we live in.

But we know human beings are not inherently evil. Certainly David tells us this in many of his sermons, focusing on the inherent “goodness” of everything God has created, including people. “God saw everything that he has made, and indeed it was very good.”

I suggest that one of the reasons that St. Dunstan’s is place that draws

and keeps so many of us, is the goodness that lives here, the goodness inside people, the goodness inside the place, and the goodness that is shared personally among us, and with the broader community. It’s not usually a showy, extravagant kind of goodness, but all the things that happen here every day - the church services, the Centre for Spiritual Renewal, the small groups that support and nourish, coffee time fellowship, the free ESL classes, the Thursday meal, the food bank and more.

We need to acknowledge and embrace this goodness, when the world around us sometimes seems to be in such a hopeless mess.

Hattie

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

By: the Reverend David Taylor

Dear friends of St. Dunstan,

Happy Easter!

I am so grateful for your presence through the season of Lent. Your perseverance through the chair arrangement as we faced difficult issues revealed your gracious nature! **You are all true visions of God All-Loving.**

This Easter season we are back in a circle and will skip through portions of the Revelation to John. My hope is that we will become encircled by the *Visio Dei* (the Vision of God) that is presented in these readings: God is our **Source and our End**, God **has all things in God's hands**, God is our **helper**, God is **with us**, God is our **temple** and God is at the **point of return**.

These Visions of God will, I hope, inspire a vision of our lives so that we can see ourselves the way God sees us: true visions of God All-Loving.

This Easter season we will tiptoe through some of the scenes in the Revelation to John.

April 28: God is Alpha and Omega

May 5: God is on the throne

May 12: God is our Saviour

May 19: God is with us

May 26: God is our Temple

June 2: God is coming soon

ST. DUNSTAN HAPPENINGS

There is always so much happening at St. Dunstan's that it's impossible to keep track of it all. My apologies if I've missed something. If there is ever something I've missed that you want to share, please send it to me for the next Chronicle.

Also, please send me anything new that you would like to share. The Summer Chronicle should come out in July, but don't wait!!! If you've got something to share send it to me any time - hattie.hogeterp@shaw.ca

EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION

Epiphany is an important date in the Liturgical Calendar of Christian Churches. It celebrates the coming of the "Three Kings" or "Magi." There is quite a lot of information about Epiphany, what it has come to mean over the years, and how it is celebrated. I like the definition of epiphany as "the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi." Jesus may have been born into the exclusive Jewish religion, but Epiphany gives him to all the world.

Epiphany has been celebrated at St. Dunstan's in different ways over the years. We've done the Epiphany Chalk House Blessing, and we've done the Epiphany Cake. This year David introduced the Epiphany Proclamation.

In the days before common people were able to read, and google was still far into the future, the local priest would read or sing the proclamation of Easter and the moveable feasts. It gives the date of Easter that year and the dates of the feasts dependant on the date of Easter day.

Thank you David for introducing us to the Epiphany Announcement. Here are the important dates as based on the date of Easter:

Easter - April 21

- Ash Wednesday - March 6
- Ascension of the Lord - May 30
- Pentecost - June 9
- Advent - December 1

BAPTISM DAY AT ST. DUNSTAN'S

January 13 was a special day at St. Dunstan's. That Sunday we not only celebrated the Baptism of Jesus, but the baptism of seven members of the St. Dunstan Community. Four members of the Krabbendam family, Mike, Moses, Holly and Solomon and three members of the Varin family, Alison, Claire and Lily. Needless to say it was a joyous occasion.





*All photos taken
by Brian Fox-
Schmidt*

*The Krabbendam
and Varin
Families lined up
and ready.*

*Below: Moses,
Holly and
Solomon*



Claire, Alison and Lily



Sharing the joy of baptismal water with the congregation is always fun!



Holly, Moses and Mike examining the baptismal certificate.



These faces reflect the joy of making baptism a family affair.

EPIPHANY MORNING RETREAT

Beautiful souls were met by our Beautiful God.

By: Lorie Martin

Grateful for a beautiful Epiphany retreat morning! 36 people met for quiet reflection, canvas, clay, collage and a Labyrinth pilgrimage. Our Light has come! Let us also go forth as Light and deepen into the manifest presence of God and revelations of divine life.

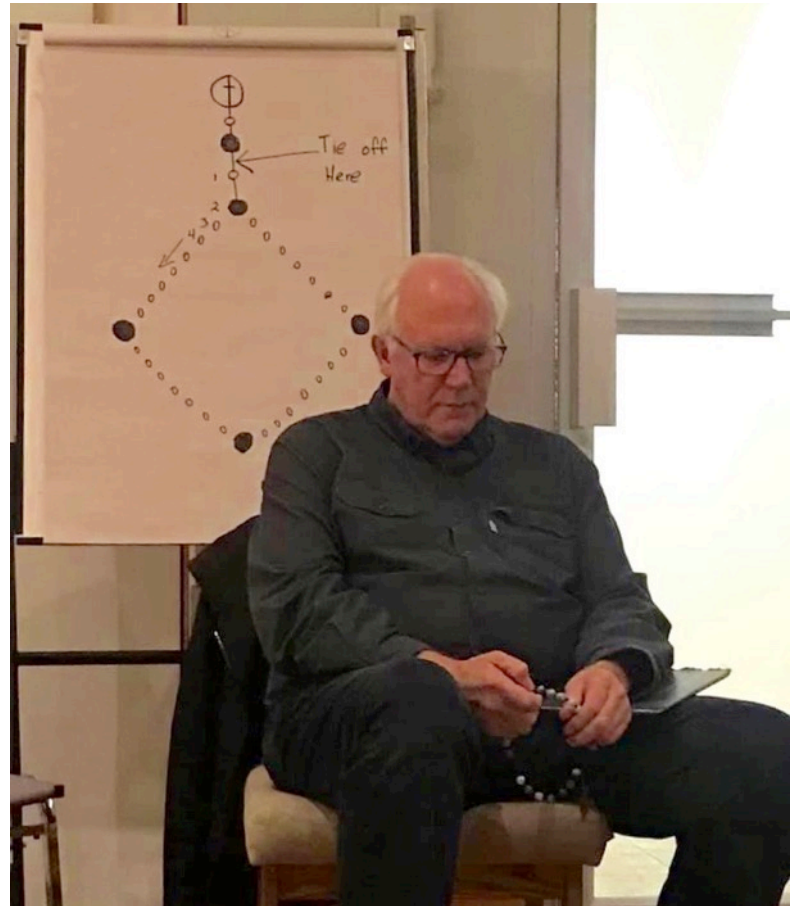


ANGLICAN ROSARY WORKSHOP

By: Lorie Martin

A wonder-full creative evening making prayer bead rosaries. 27 people deeply impacted by tactile prayer, community interaction, silence, and Divine Presence. Special thank you to Joe Baker for great facilitation and inspiration!

Thank you everyone! Prayer matters and you proved it. Blessings of grace to every rosary prayer and all our prayers.



FRASER RIVER COUNSELLING

By: David Taylor

Sunday January 20, St. Dunstan welcomed the students of Trinity Western University's Counseling Program. Since September this group of people have met on Monday nights to practice their learning by offering low-cost counseling through Fraser River Counseling. This is part of our parish's

commitment to the healing of the body, mind and spirit of the world. We will hear how this outreach program impacts our community and why followers of Jesus desire to be involved in this kind of work. Our ministry of Healing at St. Dunstan's is diverse.



*The Counseling Team from Trinity Western.
Nicole Kragt, Carli Mittlestaedt, Nita Augustin, Rachel Tober, Jolene Friesen*

IN THE WORDS OF THE STUDENTS

NICOLE KRAGT

Thank you so much for opening this beautiful space for our counseling team. Working at St. Dunstan's has been such a positive experience for both my clients and I, as it provides such a positive atmosphere. I believe it is so important for the church and counseling profession to work together to bring healing to those living in our community. You have made this possible.
Many blessings!

CARLI MITTLESTAEDT

Working as a practicum student at FRC - St. Dunstan's has taught me to better value what I have to offer this world and my clients. Through my own development personally and professionally, I've been learning that when I fully and authentically show up, healing occurs. It's been an honour and a great privilege to be here, thank you for having us and providing the space for this great work.

NITA AUGUSTIN

I was called into the helping profession to walk with others in their pain and suffering towards healing, just like how the Lord had taken me on a meandering journey to where I am at today.

RACHEL TOBER

My faith in God is what has driven my passion for the counseling profession. I feel that it is God's intent for my life, to be a contributing figure to the healing process for those individuals who have been wounded; helping each person to rise above the circumstances and hardships that have caused them pain.

JOLENE FRIESEN

It has been such a privilege serving my clients at the Saint Dunstan's site. The Beauty of the site just lends itself naturally to the sacredness of my work. Thank you for allowing us to have a presence in the lives of our clients and in your beautiful facility.

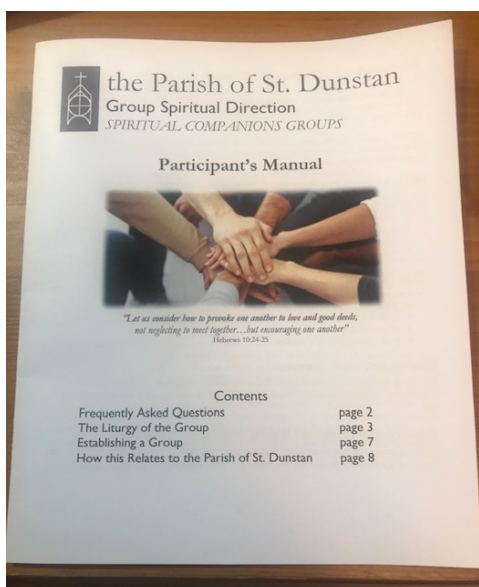
The Counselors in this program are all Trinity Western students doing their practicum with Fraser River Counseling. They work under the

supervision of Gillian Drader.

The program will resume and expand to another day a week, starting September 2019.

SPIRITUAL COMPANIONS GROUPS

By: Lorie Martin



Thirty of us met on Sunday, January 20th, for an amazing start to new small group connecting! We gathered, prayed, and shared together to "motivate and inspire one another to love and good deeds." Heb. 10:24-25

The reports coming from the spiritual companions groups have been outstanding! Some have decided to continue on into the fall and one group wants to meet every other week instead of once a month.

Sharing hearts and lives with encouragement and God's presence has been life changing! The structured sharing time has worked exceptionally well. It includes an opening prayer, a short spiritual practice of Lectio Divina (reading scripture) or sharing about the week, or a chant. The time of

connecting ends in prayer and a time of visiting. We are growing in God's grace!

NOTE: Next Beginning for these groups is SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH after service. Hope you can save the date and come be a part of this if you feel drawn to join.

ENNEAGRAM RETREAT DAY

By: Lorie Martin

Thirty people had an exciting day when we gathered to explore and experience the Enneagram in the oral tradition of a circle conversation. Leading the workshop from our parish were Helen, Lorie, Ron & Marilyn, Katherine and David. It was a hit! Watch for another one!

As one of the attendees commented : "Wanted to thank you so very much for your efforts on

presenting the best Enneagram workshop I have experienced last Saturday. I learned so much. I have taken two workshops in the past, read a number of books and still had questions. Think most of those were answered and things are much clearer in my mind. I now know what a great tool it can be to track spiritual and personal growth."



VALENTINE SPAGHETTI DINNER

The St. Dunstan Choir is AMAZING! They not only sing beautifully, and practice diligently every week, but they also give their time and talents to providing us with an annual delicious spaghetti dinner with all the trimmings - caesar salad, garlic bread, dessert and a challenging game (no googling allowed.) This year there was a special treat to take home - gorgeous valentine cookies made by Janice De Ruiter.

The Valentine Spaghetti Dinner is looked forward to year in, year out. Does any one know how many years it's been?



I remember at least one held at the OAP (Old Age Pensioners Hall) in Aldergrove well before we had this building.

*A full house of satisfied customers.
Being served with a smile.*



KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE COMES TO ST. DUNSTAN

By: Hattie Hogeterp

Sunday, February 10, St. Dunstan's Aldergrove hosted the Kairos Blanket Exercise. Kairos is an ecumenical organization, which brings together over 10 inter-church coalitions, including the Anglican Church of Canada and PWRDF, to work for ecological justice and human rights. The Kairos Blanket Exercise is an educational and participatory exercise that graphically illustrates what has happened to Canada's indigenous people as the result of colonization.

The Kairos Blanket Exercise opened with the floor of the sanctuary covered in blankets, representing the territory inhabited by the indigenous people of Canada before colonization. Participants were asked to stand on the blankets, greeting and interacting with each other, representing all the different nations and their interrelated cultures.

The narrators then began to read the list of things that impacted the indigenous people as the colonizers settled the land: values and beliefs held by the colonizing nations and imposed on the indigenous people such as the "Right of Discovery Doctrine," treaties made and broken with indigenous nations, acts of government limiting the rights and lands of indigenous people, imported diseases for which indigenous people had no

defense, and residential schools meant to assimilate indigenous people into the dominant culture, breeding abuse and destroying families in the process. Blankets and people were removed as the list went on. In the end all that remained were a few isolated, crumpled blankets, barely big enough to hold the few people that were still standing. It was a very visual, graphic illustration of how Aboriginal populations were decimated and their lands taken away.

For some of the participants it was a very emotional exercise and small groups were facilitated at the end to de-brief and discuss the experience. One of the difficult issues that came up and which we, as Christians, have to grapple with, is reconciling our Christian faith with what was done to indigenous people in the name of that faith.

The Anglican Church of Canada has apologized for its role in the residential schools and has committed to the Truth and Reconciliation process. Hosting the Kairos Blanket Exercise is one way in which St. Dunstan's is supporting the Truth and Reconciliation process.

The Kairos Blanket Exercise came to St. Dunstan's as part of the Centre for Spiritual Renewal, which started at St. Dunstan's last fall.



A graphic illustration of Indigenous nations' and their territory before and after colonization.

VESTRY 2019

Sunday February 17, was Vestry at St. Dunstan's. Vestry is defined as "a meeting of parishioners, originally in a vestry, for the conduct of parochial business." We do have a vestry at St. Dunstan's, but it's pretty small, so we met in the Sanctuary.

Here are some of the highlights of our Vestry meeting. We gave thanks for the lives of those who have died in the past year - Pam Cleeve, Loretta Wales, Joy Reeves, Fred Badium and members of our Thursday Meal, Sam and Connie.

The goals set out in the 5-year Strategic Vision Plan were reconfirmed.

5 Year Strategic Vision Plan Report:

- **Goal 1** - We want to become a place of SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION and COMMUNITY for all ages by connecting people to the many small groups that meet at St. Dunstan's and by creating new small groups for others who need it. **Update:** 5 new small groups added through Spiritual Companions Groups and visited the existing small groups to see how they can be better supported and began the Centre for Spiritual Renewal. While we attempted to create a small group for youth, we have put that project on hold in order to focus energy on our incubating youth group in Sunday School and Messy Church. We look forward to investing energy in seniors and groups this coming year.
- **Goal 2** - We want to become a place of SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP. **Update** - We have two people in the discernment process - Lorie Martin for the priesthood and Gillian Drader for the diaconate.



We have also invited Helen Tervo to return as our Honorary Assistant with a focus on the Centre for Spiritual Renewal.

- **Goal 3** - We want to become a place of SPIRITUAL SERVICE. **Update** - We have increased the number of cooks and continue to host many people from the community who depend on our Thursday Meal.

Reports for all the different ministries of the church, including the financial report were presented and approved. Our treasurer, Doug Tindall, presented the financial report for last year and the budget for 2019. He was pleased to announce that we ended last year with \$15,000 "in the black." With our growing congregation we have an increase in revenue, but also an increase in costs. Staffing costs will be higher in the coming year. Our budget for 2019 is \$243,755, with a \$2,100 shortfall. If you have questions about the budget please talk to Doug. Doug was re-appointed as our treasurer for 2019. Ian Elliott and Lorie Martin presented brief reports on the Memorial Garden project and the Centre for Spiritual Renewal.

One of the important agenda items at a Vestry meeting is the appointment of a new Parish Council. Parish Council is composed of the Rector, wardens, lay delegates to Synod, the treasurer and lay leaders. The Council represents the people of the vestry, i.e. the church community and makes decisions for the community. Christina Ford was thanked for her 2 years of service on Parish Council. Your Parish Council for 2019: the Reverend David Taylor, Wardens, Lois Curtis and Theresa Tancock, Treasurer, Doug Tindall, Synod Delegates, Gillian Drader and Deana Brandt, Youth Synod Delegate, Dana Crossan, Alternate Synod Delegates, Susan Howard and Charlie Hamilton, Members at Large, Bruce Kennedy, Mike Kobald, and Katherine Murray. Please speak to one of these people if you

have questions, concerns or ideas about what is happening in our parish.

Our Sunday services are the culmination of a great deal of work by many people - the priest, choir, worship team, lay servers, greeters, sides-people, coffee team. Those who serve as lay administrators of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, must be authorized by the bishop. Bishop Skelton has been asked to authorize the following lay administrators for 2019: Joe Baker, Bill Betts, Lois Curtis, Linda Davies, Trevor Davies, Ian Elliott, Steve Gallagher, Madeline Gallard, Charlie Hamilton, Megan Huizing, Bruce Kennedy, Carol Knelson, Janette Kovacs, Ken Lamb, Lorie Martin, Audrey McAuley, Lin Neifert, Jacqui Pesek, Kerry Pope, Barb Popham, Jesse Rintoul, Brian Smith, Kelsey Tuffin, Diane Henderson, Laura Wallace, Kathleen Wiens and Merrill Young.

40 DAY WELCOMING PRAYER

By: Lorie Martin

If you know me well you've heard me go on and on about the Welcoming Prayer Practice! It has been a game changer for me in my daily prayer life.

I started Thomas Keating's 40-Day guide last July and am so grateful for the impact this practice has had on my emotions, body sensations, and spiritual connection with God.

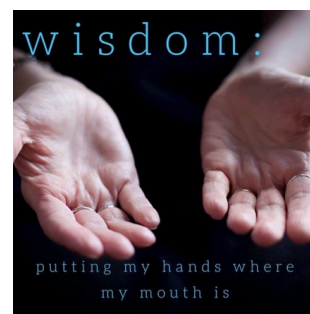
What a "welcomed" surprise we experienced in the 40 day Welcome Prayer Practice!

I thought a handful of people would be interested, however, Katherine ended up making 40 booklets for everyone who signed up to join in!!! What a wonder-full response to meet with God in our everyday activities.

We met Fridays, after the Lectio

Divina, and Sundays after the service (as well as a few who joined us on Fridays through a Zoom Room on line). It was a truly remarkable time as wonderful groups of people met and shared deeply of their spiritual journey. We were all very impacted by the 40 day Lenten journey and hearing from each other of the beauty and the struggles of consenting to God's Presence in the midst of everything. Praise and thanksgiving to God!

A little birdie asked if we'd do it again next Lent! Want to join in?



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

By: Hattie Hogeterp



March 2, 2019,
Kerry Pope, Jean
Martin, and I,
attended Women's
World Day of Prayer
at St. Anne and
Joachim Catholic
Church. I don't

know how long Women's World Day of Prayer has been active in Aldergrove, but I know that the United Church, the Catholic Church and the St. Dunstan's Church ladies have all hosted the event in recent years.

Each year a different country is chosen to create the program, the prayers and the music for the day. This year it was Slovenia. The theme was "Come - Everything is Ready!" "The invitation is grounded in the parable that Jesus told about a great dinner which was attended by the ones called off the streets, as the ones invited excused themselves. The community formed around the table is not enough to fill the house - there is still room. Who are missing from the table in your community?"

The country that develops the theme, the prayers and the music, also produces a piece of art.

"The artist, Rezka Arnuš, wanted to present two topics with her artwork pictured on the right. The country of Slovenia and the main biblical story of the worship service. At the top there are women dressed in national traditional costumes. The semicircular ornament with Slovenian folk embroidery represents a plate or a table with their best known national dish - potica - and grapes from various wine producing vineyards. Partly under the table, one can see the children from the margins of the society. They heard the invitation to the feast. The red and white colors used reflect Slovenian folk embroidery. The green background color emphasizes the green Slovenia, fields and forests. The warm colors of children express the joy of heartfelt invitation."



<https://worlddayofprayer.net/slovenia-2019.html>

We listened to, and participated in prayers and songs, and enjoyed a lovely fellowship lunch afterwards. I, for one, connected with an old neighbour, and all of us found interests and/or people we had in common.

So what exactly is Women's World Day of Prayer? "The origins of World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century when Christian women of the United States and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and in other parts of the world."

You might say the initiative had its roots in a feminist movement of sorts. The website tells us that church women, as women often do, had "a strong sense of identification with the needs of women and children and searched out ways to provide appropriate support." Apparently the male mission boards of the day, thought otherwise, but the women persevered, and by 1861 had "founded numerous and effective women's boards for foreign and home missions whereby they could work directly with and for women and children."

Personal and communal prayer were an integral part of the work these women did. Education about the lives of women in other parts of the world was also considered part of women's responsibility and in 1900 an interdenominational Central Committee for United Study was set up to develop educational resources that women could use to "become informed about the lives of women in other parts of the world" and to "study biblical foundations and vital issues related to mission work."

This movement of working together in mission, prayer, and education, regardless of denominational boundaries, allowed women to work together to bring help and hope where it is needed. After WWI women in the US and Canada instituted a World Day of Prayer for Peace, realizing that mission and peace are intricately linked. In 1926, the World Day of Prayer for Missions, spread to many other countries where missions were established and by 1928 the World Day of Prayer came into being. In that year, "this statement came from the World Day of Prayer Committee:"

"It is with deep gratitude that we recognize the growing power inherent in our World Day of Prayer. A very decided expansion of this prayer fellowship has come during the past year. The circle of prayer has expanded literally around the world. We have learned the great lesson of praying with, rather than for, our sisters of other races and nations, thus enriching our experience and releasing the power which must be ours if we are to accomplish tasks entrusted to us."

<https://worlddayofprayer.net/about.html>

Since then, women throughout the world come together for a World Day of Prayer. I, for one, am glad that St. Dunstan's is part of this group and this movement.

Next year's 2020 service, and prayers will be written by the Women of Zimbabwe. The women of St. Dunstan's will organize and host the event here in Aldergrove. We hope you will come and participate.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday at St. Dunstan's means pancakes and a fire. Pancakes and fires seem to be a couple of things



that men have an affinity for. Shrove Tuesday saw our men taking full charge of cooking, cleaning and fire making. Thank you gentlemen!



The cooks and the fire builder.

*Rich was once a professional cook.
Charlie? ... he just borrowed the apron.*

Bruce was once a boy scout.



The event was well attended, by a number of Parishioners. The beautiful weather of March smiled down on the

Shrove Tuesday fire, where last year's crosses were burned to become this year's ashes for Ash Wednesday.



The congregation watches as the crosses burn to ashes.

Logan is fascinated by the flames.



"Yes, young lady, men can cook!"



And do dishes!

WOMEN IN THE EASTER STORY

By: Lorie Martin

A delightful circle of women gathered to honour the women who are in the Easter story.

Mary Gillanders brought a lovely reflection on Mary, the mother of

Jesus. Jacqui Pesek brought a wonderful reflection on Mary Magdalene and Katherine Murray shared a thought provoking reflection on all the other women who were likely there; the ones

who were impacted by Jesus when he met them, such as the woman caught in adultery.

Norma Kobald brought us a remarkable series of songs to coincide with the stories. Definitely think this

needs to be an annual tradition! Wondering if people would like this offered in an evening if they work? Special thank you to Jackie Betts for the coffee and snacks!



CELEBRATING CHARLIE REID

Charlie Reid and his wife Doreen were long time St. Dunstan Parishioners. They were married in 1952 at the old St. Andrews in Langley, and started with this Church community back in the days of the old St. Alban's, over 50 years ago. They were with us through the amalgamation of St. Alban and St. Dunstan, the fire, the school venues and the new St. Dunstan's.

They were stalwarts of the church community. Doreen was a moving force behind the Coffee Hour and Charlie was an active member of the Old Boys' Club.

Doreen passed away in April of 2015. In March of this year, Charlie followed his beloved wife. His children Bill, Doug, Deb, and Gord, and their families, held a celebration of Charlie's life at St. Dunstan's.



Charlie in his element, hanging out with the "Old Boys."



Charlie's memorial was an opportunity for his old friends to get together to reminisce and honour his memory.

Good-by Charlie Reid! We will miss you.

PARISH SPRING CLEAN-UP

The last Saturday of March, thirty St. Dunstan parishioners descended on the church to perform a thorough spring cleaning. Literally every nook and cranny was cleaned and spruced up, from under the sinks in the kitchen to the sanctuary - kitchen, hall, meeting rooms, offices, gathering space, and sanctuary. In Doug's words "Basically every room received attention!" and in Brian Smith's words, "Everyone was washing or polishing something and having a great time."



Thank you to all the people who work so hard to keep our space, beautiful.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Mary Gillanders has been the Chronicle's faithful writer of the "Getting to Know You," section for several years, but Mary has moved to Vancouver Island. She has one more interview in her portfolio, but wasn't able to finish it for this publication. It will appear in the Spring Chronicle.

Lin Neifert has kindly volunteered to take over the job. We will look forward to her first contribution in the Fall Chronicle.

In the mean time, I'm including a few words from Mary, as a way of saying good-by, and a lovely story written by Brian Smith.

MARY GILLANDERS MOVES TO THE ISLAND

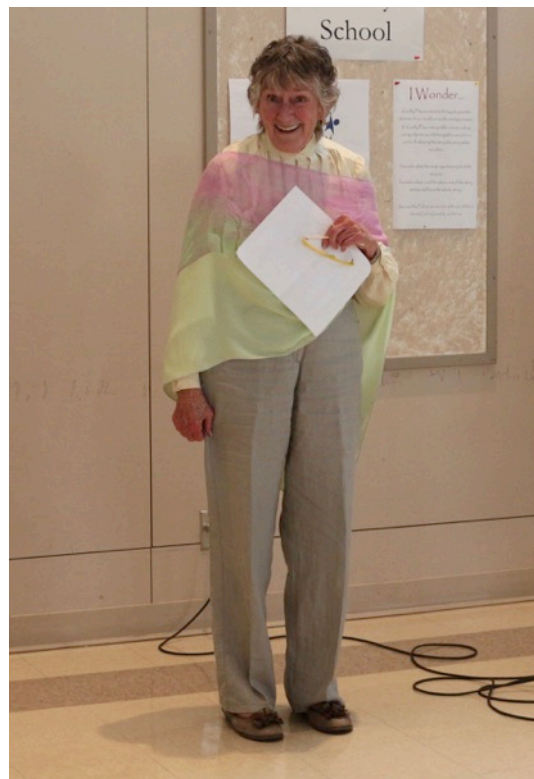
By: Mary Gillanders

I first came to St. Dunstan's back in the 70's when we moved out to the Valley. I attended pretty regularly until I went back to work when my son was about 3. I was finding it hard to fit everything in!

After I retired, I decided it was time to return. I always say God gave me a huge urge. By that time the fire had happened, and worship was taking place in the school. I couldn't believe how much things had changed and I remember sitting there thinking wow, this is a place where women matter in their own right, not just as an adjunct to the males. It was also a real family, and people were genuinely glad to see me. What was not to love about three dynamic women clergy, Beverley, Helen, and Kim. So that's why I stayed.

My first involvement was as a member of Pastoral ministries. Beverley suggested we investigate the Stephen Minister program, and as a result three of us took the training and this became part of our church outreach. Later, it seemed natural to launch our Healing Prayer ministry, and again later, Centering Prayer.

I was a member of Parish Council when we decided to move the library out



of the St. Alban's room into the narthex to make it more accessible. I volunteered, and given my love of reading, was happy to keep an eye on things.

I'll miss my many dear friends at St. Dunstan's. I guess if I were to try to put into words what I've loved most

about the community, it would be the willingness to embrace change, and to constantly grow. Not to mention Carol's music and David's remarkable sermons. I'm looking forward to the better

air quality here on the Island, and am already liking the slower pace.

Love to everyone, Mary
Sent from my iPad

THE STORY BEHIND NOW AND THEN

By: Brian Smith



Here is a then and now picture of Diane and I.

Then 1964, now 2018.

The then picture was on the deck of my parents' Dunbar home.

Now was in Jamaica for my middle son's wedding.



In 1949 Diane and her family moved to the 3800 block of 31st, also in 1949 Brian and his family moved to the 3900 block of 32nd. These properties were kitty corner from each other with West Memorial park in between.

Both Diane and I played numerous hours in the park, but we never met. Diane went to Lord Kitchener and I went to Southlands so we never met. We both went to Sunday school for 12 years at St. Phillips Church but we never met. We were both confirmed at St Phillips but we never met. We both went to Lord Byng for five years but we never met.

Finally in the summer of 1963 we met at a campground in Osoyoos. I am not sure of exactly how we met but I do remember swimming with her. I also had a boat my dad and I had built, and I taught her how to water ski. It was then that I learned she lived minutes from my house. I am not sure how I knew but to me she was the girl I wanted to marry.

Now at the time she was going steady (anybody remember that term) with another fellow. Not to be deterred I did my best to reel her in. She was just not sure about me but finally after grad in 1964 we finally started going out and then steady. So now you have the then picture of us on my parent's deck.

Parents can sometimes make things difficult. In August of 1964 my father announced he had requested a transfer back to Toronto to finish his career with Sears and be with family who were getting on in years. As I had just graduated from high school, had no job or money, I had to go to Toronto with them.

In 1965 I returned to Vancouver with great expectations of resuming my relations with Diane finding a job, getting married and living happily ever

after. Well that quickly went up in smoke so I returned to Toronto.

In 1967 Diane accompanied her mother to London Ontario and I was able to see her for a short time as they changed trains in Toronto. Again nothing came of that meeting.

In 1969 her parents came to Toronto where I met them and had a great visit. I took them and my girlfriend of the time, for dinner and a movie at Ontario place. Her father topped the evening off by saying he wished his daughter had married me rather than the ass she had married.

We now have to fast forward to 2002. We had no contact during the intervening years. I was now retired but was still looking for Diane. At this time the internet had become a useful tool. Canada 411 gave access to phone numbers all across Canada. Since I did not know her married name I decided to see if I could find her brother. At least I hoped he had not changed his name.

It was during one of my searches that a pop-up for classmates came on my screen. I thought sure this was an American thing but anyway clicked to open the site. Well I clicked on North America, Canada, BC, Vancouver, Lord Byng and finally class of 64. Sure enough there were a number of names I recognized but unfortunately Diane's name was not there. As it was free to "enroll" I entered my information.

After enrolling I would get messages when new members had joined and each time I hoped it was Diane but no luck. Now as some of you are aware the first week of November is Bambi season so off to camp I went.

It was in the middle of the hunting week that Diane went on to Classmates. She had joined earlier but somehow did not complete the application so her name had not

appeared. She quickly became a Gold member (allows you to send emails to other members) and sent me an email. Now she had used her hubby's email address so she felt she had to constantly check for my return email. As the days went on she became more depressed as she thought I would not reply to her message,

Well come Sunday I return to Toronto from the hunt and have put my things away and wondered if I should check my emails. I decided what the heck so I opened up my email program. To my disbelief there were two classmate messages. One said a new member had joined and the other said you have mail from a classmate. I think they heard the YES across the street. It was from Diane and by the end of her message she indicated she really wanted me to email her back.

So began a reunion of two old friends. Emails were going back and forth (she soon had her own address), online chats and we would both walk our dogs in the evening and spend many hours talking and telling each other about our lives. The more we talked the more we knew we would get together.

After Christmas I/we decided that we had to get together to see if we were looking at each other through forty year old rose colored glasses. I had a ton of Aeroplan miles from my working days so we planned to meet in February. About then I had an uncle who was dying so we put it off to March. Then just before we were to get together her mother fell and broke her leg. Diane talked to the doctor and he told her to go, her mom would be in the hospital for a couple of weeks and would need her more when she returned home.

So the big day arrived and I managed to get into the baggage area

of Pearson airport and watched her come down the ramp. Head was going like a bobble head doll looking at everything yet seeing nothing. When she almost walked into me I asked if she would like a hug.

As a storm was brewing we gathered up her luggage and headed north. Now when I told my buddy of my plans to take Diane to his cabin he remarked "are you crazy! Take her to a nice hotel". Well I didn't listen so off we went. We got up north too late to go to the cabin so we stayed in a motel in Huntsville overnight. A little later that evening we walked up to a restaurant for dinner. It was about 10 below zero Fahrenheit, snowing lightly and the snow was crunching under our feet, we were in heaven.

Next morning it was off to the cabin. It had stopped snowing, was now about 20 below zero, and the sun was shining. We got to the cabin and started to unpack the truck. Horrors!! There were only a couple of pieces of firewood in the house. Fortunately I had brought along snowshoes and a toboggan because there was three feet of snow on the ground. Several trips to the woodpile and the wood box was full, and the fire was started. Soon the truck was empty and there was a large pile of stuff in the cabin.

As we were both tired from the excitement of being together we decided to crawl into bed for a nap while the cabin warmed. Note to self, when making the bed at 20 below put the sleeping bag under the covers and add blankets on top, if not it is like laying on a piece of ice. Anyway as I was lying there my friend's words were echoing in my head, had I really messed up. When we got up a couple of hours later the cabin was warming nicely, we had wood and I knew things would be good. We ended up having a great time

and the decision to move ahead with our relationship was made.

For the next couple of years I would spend ten days a month in Vancouver while I took care of business in Toronto.

At this time my mom's health had started to decline to the point where I talked with my sister and decided it was time to move her to Vancouver. Mom didn't realize at the time that the four suitcases we brought with us on that trip contained all her clothes. She spent about two years with my sister and brother-in-law. She

died in July 2007. In December of that year Diane's mom also died, both were over 90.

Finally at the start of 2010 Diane agreed to marry me. So we started looking for a church to marry us. As St. Dunstan's was just around the corner we started there. Paul (pastor at the time) agreed to marry us. On June 5, 2010 we were married and have continued to be members of the congregation ever since. Which brings us to the now picture in Jamaica last year for my middle sons wedding.

INSPIRATIONS

IF GOD SHOULD GO ON STRIKE

How good it is that God has never gone on strike
Because he wasn't treated fair in things he didn't like
If only once he'd given up and said: "That's it - I'm through.
I've had enough from those on earth, so this what I do:
I'll give my orders to the sun - cut off the heat supply;
And to the moon - give no more light and run the oceans dry.
Then, just to make things really tough and put the pressure on,
Turn off the vital oxygen 'til every breath is gone'.

You know he would be justified if fairness were the game.
For no one has been more abused or met with more disdain
Than God - and yet he carries on supplying you and me
With all the favors of His grace, and everything for free.
Men say they want a better deal and so on strike they go,
But what a deal we've given God, to Whom all things we owe
We don't know Whom we hurt to gain the things that we would like
But what a mess we would be in if God should go on strike.

(We are indebted to Gaile Campbell of West Vancouver for sending us the above verses by a poet who wishes to remain anonymous - ED)

Thank you Jim Martin for this contribution to the Chronicle.

SPECIAL INTEREST

THE PATRON SAINT OF CATS GERTRUDE OF NIVELLES

By: Hattie Hogeterp

You never know where the internet will lead you. On St. Patrick's Day I noticed this post on Merrill Young's facebook page. I'd never heard of the patron saint of cats, and was intrigued. So, of course, I had to google St. Gertrude of Nivelles.

It turns out that St. Gertrude is a very all-purpose saint. Not only is she the patron saint of cats, but also of gardeners, travellers, widows, the recently deceased, the sick, the poor, the mentally ill and travellers. Take that St. Patrick and your snakes!

Wikipedia has a long article on St. Gertrude of Nivelles. Apparently she came from a well-off, well-connected family. Not so unusual for most medieval saints. The poor had no power, no literacy, and even if they were saintly to the max, they were probably not noticed, and if they were, their lives and deeds were not likely to be chronicled.

Nonetheless, Gertrude did many things to commend her. At the tender age of 10 she is said to have flown into a temper, when asked to marry for power and money, insisting she would only be the bride of Christ. This was probably a pretty bold move in that time and place.

When Gertrude's mother, Itta, was widowed, she founded an Abbey in Nivelles Belgium, taking Gertrude with her. The monastery would have been a way to protect Gertrude from power hungry suitors and also to keep her safe



from warring factions and shifting power bases. Gertrude became Abbess at Nivelles after the death of Itta.

It's interesting that Gertrude became the patron saint of so many causes, and interesting to wonder how that may have come to be. In Medieval days, abbeys/monasteries were places of refuge, hospitality, caring, and learning. Apparently Gertrude was renowned for her hospitality, her care for the poor, the ill and travellers, and also for her learning, so it makes sense she was associated with all of these. But what about the cats?

Early depictions of Gertrude, in stone and stained glass show her with mice, but not with cats. The cute pictures of her holding a kitty cat, date from a much later time.



There are theories. All that caring and hospitality at the Abbey would have taken resources, including food resources. Growing, storing, and guarding that food from rodents, had to be a big part of the Abbey's work. Cats were probably one of the best defenses against these vermin and the dreaded Bubonic plague they carried. Gertrude was known as a protector against mice and rats. Surely cats must have been useful allies in this work.

Another story tells us that in medieval days the souls of the newly dead in purgatory were often depicted as mice. Gertrude prayed for the

recently dead, so mice became one of her symbols.

However, Gertrude didn't become popularly associated with cats until the 1980's when her affinity for vanquishing rodents became associated with a love of cats. She was warmly embraced by cat lovers as the patron saint of cats. It's nice to know that our beloved kitty cats have a patron saint of their own.

I hope I'm not being blasphemous by including a prayer for cats written by Valerie Debenedette. After all, we know David's family has a cat, and that Nathan has a special love for cats.

A Prayer to St. Gertrude, Patron Saint of Cats

St. Gertrude of Nivelles, ask you I pray
Safeguard my kitties this and each day.
Defend them from those who might wish them harm.
Keep them at home safe from danger and storm.
Instill in me wisdom to care for them well.
Pray, fill me with strength never to yell.
And Gertrude, a last thing I beseech from thee,
Protect my sofa from claws and my carpets from pee.
Amen.

Sources of Information:

<https://www.catster.com/lifestyle/st-gertrude-patron-saint-of-cats-history-prayer-patricks-day>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gertrude_of_Nivelles

FOOD

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

By: Diane Smith

Cream together:

½ cup shortening
¼ cup sugar
½ cup brown sugar (packed)

Stir in:

1 cup flour
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt

Add:

1 teaspoon vanilla

Stir in:

1 cup chocolate chips

Beat until smooth.

Drop by teaspoon on an ungreased cookie sheet. (I use silicone liners).

This recipe can be doubled.
The shortening makes crispy and not like a pancake cookie.



THE WORLD BEYOND

PWRDF

The Primates World Relief and Development Fund

During Lent we focused on giving animals to communities in need. Each gift is matched by the government of Canada 6 to 1.

- 10 ducks for \$20
 - 10 rabbits for \$20
 - 1 goat for \$30
 - 2 pigs for \$30
 - 40 chickens for \$40
 - 20 guinea fowl hens for \$40
 - 5 sheep for \$50
 - 1 cow for \$200
- For more information, please visit PWRDF.ORG. There you can read all about the good work the PWRDF does and how you can participate.

POST CARDS FROM THE ROAD



Judy Grant escaped the February cold with a trip to Hawaii, taking along her entire family for some fun in the sun, surf and sand.

Judy, with her children, Lisa, Paul and Mike at a luau on Oahu.

If you have a picture or a story of an interesting place you have visited, please pass it along to the Chronicle.

NOTES

Hello everyone,

I just wanted to thank everyone for their support regarding my trip to Israel and Palestine. I wouldn't have been able to go without all your help so I really appreciate everything. I will be leaving early May 5 and I'm really looking forward to the experience. Hopefully all goes well and I will be able to share my experience with everyone upon my return.

Once again, thank you everyone, it means a lot to me.

Regards,

Katy Olley
604-866-3668
katyolley@shaw.ca

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

SOUP KITCHEN - The Parish of St. Dunstan's has committed to cooking and serving soup on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at the Aldergrove Food Bank.

ESL - Classes are Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

THURSDAY MEAL - Each Thursday at 4:30 PM. Consider dropping by and enjoying a delicious meal. Consider cooking or hosting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING

MEN'S COFFEE - (aka "Old Boys") - Wed. 9:00 AM

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Friday 10:00 AM


MEN'S BREAKFAST - 2ND Sunday of month

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST - 2nd Sunday of month

MESSY CHURCH - 3rd Friday of the month


CENTERING PRAYER - Wed. 6:30 PM 


CHRISTIAN FORMATION STUDY GROUP - Wed. 7:00 PM 


LECTIO & LABYRINTH - Fridays 11:30 AM 

SPECIAL EVENTS


May 4 - Byrd Dog and the Vintage Electric Band
A Tribute to The Everly Brothers & Simon and Garfunkel
Doors open at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM
\$50 full buffet dinner, silent auction & show
Call 604-856-5393 or email: st.dunstans@telus.net

May 5 - Interfaith Labyrinth Walk 
2:00 - 3:00 PM
Drop-in

May 5 - Spiritual Practice Series - Embodied Prayer  **7:00 - 8:00 PM**
Facilitated by the Rev. Andrew Halliday
\$20 Tea, coffee and materials provided

May 11 - Gather:her Spring Renewal 
9:00 AM – 5 PM
Mini-retreat facilitated by Jodi Krahn
\$125 Scholarships available

May 25 – Meditation Hike 
9:00 AM – Noon
Facilitated by Lorie Martin
Willband Creek Park & Bird Sanctuary
\$20 Snacks & drinks provided, bring a lunch


May 25 - Sung Evening Prayer 
8:00 - 9:00 PM
With Cathy Hardy
Westminster Abbey in Mission

May 26 - Appreciation Lunch
After Church service

June 8 - Intro to Creative Journaling: 
Exploring the Beauty of Creation

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Facilitated by Kathie MacDuff
\$125, Scholarships available

June 9 - Breath as a Prayer 

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Facilitated by the Reverend Kelly Duncan

July 21 - 27 - Celtic Treasures: A Retreat Exploring Celtic Spirituality

Facilitated by Lorie Martin and David Taylor

Sorrento Centre

\$335 plus cost of room/campsite and food

For more information see:

<https://www.sorrentocentre.ca/events/celtic-treasures>

